CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-5 (canceled).

6. (currently amended) An apparatus for testing whether an object contains a substance of interest, said apparatus comprising:

a testing station for receiving the object to be tested;

~~a foamed metal~~ trap consisting of a foamed metal having a reticulated open cell structure and disposed for receiving a flow of air from the testing station;

a heater for heating the foamed metal trap sufficiently to volatize material on the trap;

an air pump for generating a flow of air across the trap; and

a detector for receiving the flow of air across the trap and for testing whether the flow of air across the trap contains any of the particles of interest.

7. (currently amended) The ~~detector~~ apparatus of claim 6, wherein the trap has a thickness of less than 10 mm.

8. (currently amended) The ~~detector~~ apparatus of claim 6, wherein the trap has a thickness of approximately 2 mm.

9. (currently amended) The ~~detector~~ apparatus of claim 6, wherein the trap is formed from a foamed aluminum alloy.

10. (currently amended) The ~~detector~~ apparatus of claim 9, wherein the aluminum alloy has a selected density, and wherein the trap has a density of 10%-50% of the aluminum alloy.

11. (currently amended) The ~~detector~~ apparatus of claim 9, wherein the detector is an ion mobility spectrometer.

12. (currently amended) The ~~apparatus~~ apparatus of claim 9, wherein the detector is an ion trap mobility spectrometer.

13. (currently amended) The ~~detector~~ apparatus of claim 6, wherein the trap is formed from foamed copper metal.

14. (currently amended) The ~~detector~~ apparatus of claim 6, wherein the trap is formed from a stainless steel metal.

15. (currently amended) ~~The detector of claim 6, wherein~~An apparatus for testing whether an object contains a substance of interest, said apparatus comprising:

a testing station for receiving the object to be tested;

~~the~~ a trap formed from a silica-carbon foam metal having a reticulated open cell structure and disposed for receiving a flow of air from the testing station;

a heater for heating the foamed metal trap sufficiently to volatize material on the trap;

an air pump for generating a flow of air across the trap; and

a detector for receiving the flow of air across the trap and for testing whether the flow of air across the trap contains any of the particles of interest.

16. (withdrawn) A method for forming a trap for collecting trace amounts of particles of interest, said method comprising providing an aluminum alloy;

foaming the aluminum alloy to define a reticulated open cell structure having a thickness of at least 10 mm; and

compressing the foamed aluminum to a thickness of about 2 mm.

17. (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the trap is compressed by placing the foamed material in a press.

18 (withdrawn) The method of claim 16, wherein the foamed aluminum is compressed by passing the foamed aluminum through a nip between a pair of rollers.